Tuteja Committee

1886. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have concluded the assessment of.the Tuteja Committee report on revitalization of the sugar industry;

(b) whether the country is facing a sugar shortage, in terms of depleted buffer stock due to poor care harvesting last season; and

(c) whether Government have initiated move to import raw sugar, as recommended by Tuteja Committee, to tide over the present shortage leading to a 45 per cent price rise in retail sugar prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) While it is expected that availability of sugar will be sufficient to meet domestic demand in 2004-05, Government have facilitated import of raw sugar by sugar factories against Advance License under the prevailing EXIM Policy, to augment carry forward stock for the sugar year, 2005-06.

There has been no increase of 45% in retail prices of sugar in recent months as may be seen from the Table below:

(Rs. Per kg.)

Centre	Jan.05	Feb.05	Mar.05*
Delhi	19.00	20.00	20.00
Mumbai	19.50	19.50	19.50
Koikata	20.00	20.00	21.00
Chennai	18.50	18.00	- 18.00

* As on 10.3.2005

• Source: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Consumer Affairs (Price Monitoring Cell), Government of India, New Delhi.